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Robert E. Webster

DOB 23 Oct 28 - Ohio

CIA has no operational relationship
with Mr. Webster - letter from
Dallas to Bundy dated 15 April 1961

Was employed as plastics expert by
the Rand Development Corp of Cleveland
Ohio

Had enlisted electronics specialist
in U. S. Navy.

Traveled to USSR in connection with
the American Exhibition in Moscow, 1959

17 Oct 59 officially renounced his
U. S. Citizenship

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180-10144-10071

110 file opening request

dated 10/17/59-

3/14/78

Probably opened on 10/20/59 from news articles, 1 - earliest 3rd agency
was AF doc. 10/23/59.

①

Webster, Robert E.

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Vol. I

Bio sheets & newspaper articles provide following info:

- Webster made a series of trips to Moscow during March -

July 1959 in conjunction w/ Rand Corp. exhibit at the Moscow
Exhibition.

- Webster disappeared "on a trip" on 9/10/59 when the Rand Corp.
personnel were scheduled to leave Moscow.

- He reportedly renounced U.S. cit. on Oct. 17-19, 1959. Was informed by
Sovs. that if he accepted Sov. cit., he would not be able to leave country.

10/6/59 SD Telegram, ^{+1082, (4 lines)} Moscow to Secy State; RE: Receipt of letter
from Webster stating his decision to remain in S.U. to live & work.
Emb. unable to determine N's whereabouts in Leningrad.

10/8/59 MFR, by [Emmett T. McMurtry] 11111332, SR/COP/FT; RE: Attempts to
locate Webster; receipt of (above) Emb. cable.

- ATIC Cleveland asked whether N was carrying out clandestine task
for CIA which hadn't been coordinated w/ them. He assured that
this was not case & to best of our knowledge, N had not been briefed
by & was unknown to either ADP or 000 offices.

- Check made w/ Mr. Mills; had exchanged N on a few social occasions;
he will consult w/ Mrs. Wickerman & Keylor to produce a more complete
picture of N.

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10/20/59 MFR, by Bruce L. Solis, OS/SPS; RE: Webster

- Egster advised Papier called Roman re Agency interest in N.

- OS files - no clearance; was an 00/c int. in N in late May '59, but
N wasn't contacted by 00/c prior to trips to USSR.

- CI/0A files - no record.

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R.E. Webster (cont.)

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- 10/21/59 Office Memo, E.S. Pittsburgh, Cleveland to Chief, ACO, Attn: Support Br. (Crowley); RE: R.E. Webster case at recent Jackie Snelling conference on 10/20/59 - Our org. has no interest in matter.

- 10/22/59 Office Memo, Pittsburgh, Cleveland Resident Agent to Chief, Contact Div.; Attn: Support (Crowley); RE: Webster - Questions asked by Major R.H. Ladd of OSI:

- a) Is this office doing anything re W's defection?
- b) If not, do they contemplate doing anything?
- c) What would this office have done if W not normally?

Pittsburgh called next day w/ response that they knew only what was in newspapers re W; (not very cooperative)

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- 10/30/59 Office Memo, Pittsburgh to Crowley; RE: Kent (of WRU) conversation w/ H.J. Ladd re R.E. Webster

- 10/21/59 Memo, Sheffield Edwards to Dir., FBI, RE: Webster

- W has never been used by Agency: was considered for debriefing May-June 1959, however he was not contacted prior to dep. for USSR.

]- Agency does have a std. contractual relationship w/ Cleveland Office of Rand Develop. Corp. on develop. of tech. material of int. to Agency. In view of W's emp. w/ RDC, please forward any info obtained in investig. of W.

10/23/59 Info. on Vera Lockette, W's girlfriend

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10/28/59 Report re W:

✓ W was given sec. clearance 6/5/59 but never had access to military info.

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R. E. Webster (cont.)

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Report of interview of N by Snyder, in presence of H. T. Rand & Gen. Bookbinder at the DVIR in Moscow - reasons for defection; also signed renunciation of U.S. cit. ^{on 10/17/59}

3/22/60 Office Memo, Pittsburgh to Act. Chief, Contact Div.; Attn: Support Branch (Crowley) - 1st indication (thru 3/22/60 Cleveland Press article) of N's desire to ret. to U.S.

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3/25/60 DM, Pittsburgh to Gravie

- Rand contacted by N's father to aid in bringing N home.
- Rand indicated he would contact SA & Sov. Emb. Wash. to see what could be done.
- R quoted Snyder of US Emb Moscow as saying there would be no difficulty from U.S. side. Even though N is Sov. cit., Sov. quota is never filled & since his broken no laws, he should be able to enter US as alien if necessary.
- R indicated may be value in bringing N back for mthly. reasons.

Several Office Memo's re N's interest & actions re return to US.

12/20/60 File Review of Office of Security files, SD reflected (besides doc. re N's defection) the following:

5/4/60 Telegram (#2697) Am Emb Moscow to SD: RE: Visit of N that afternoon; interviewed by Security & Consular officers; asked for advice on ret. to US.

- States that N's father should be advised to execute visa petition; also provided notarized letters of invitation from self & Mrs. N. for N's use in making Sov. visa & visa appl.
- N was given standard invit. letter to consolidate letters entries into Emb.

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R. E. Webster

3-1-1-144

Vol. I contains third agency docs. as follows:

17 FBI Reports -

2 Dept. of AF Memos

4 SA docs. - 11/12/59; 3/22/60; 4/4/60; 6/8/60

1-1-1-1335

Vol. II ✓ - PRQ - Part I Undated; sometime after return to US

- News articles re W's ^{reimprisonment} return to ret. to US (© 5/16/62).

- Undated Memo, [Tas. B] have, Assessment & Evaluation Staff, Office of Lang. to
Mr. Rudy Salazar, SR/6 Attaching:

Report of Current Assessment of R. E. Webster - assessed on 7/23-24/62

- Report based on psych. testing

- Attach. to Pitt Report 21345 - "List of Hoan's Retention Items from R. E. Webster

3rd Agency - FBI Report of 1/8/62

Vol. III

Office Memos from Cleveland re Raed & W's ret.

Correspondence Det. W & family

Country: USSR

CIA Info. Report Subj: Reorganized Scient. & Ind. Inst. of Poly. Plastics (NIIPPP)

Dir. & Org. of Sov. Plastics Ind.

Date of Info.: 11/18/59 - 4/18/62

Report # OO-B 3232798

LA/00 Case 38246

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Joint report of Foreign Tech. Div., AF Systems Command, & CIA

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R. E. Webster

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Vol. III (cont.)

6/4/62 Request for Approval on investigative action

To: CI/Op. App. & Supp. Div. From: AC/SR/6/Supp.

: See Supp. Div. / DS

R. J. Balaban

Reqs: Provisional Cover Security Approval

Spec. Area of Use: Debriefing to obtain Sov. relatives data

Clearance req. to debrief Subj. re experience as a resident of S.U. prior to
during defection to USSR © 9/10/59.

6/22/62 Memo, DD Security (Invest. & Oper. Supp.) to Chief, SR Div.; Attn: Balaban

- A PLCSA may be granted for use as described; subj. is not to represent
himself nor to be represented as an emp. of CIA. If change in status is desired,
new request should be made.

7/5/62 Author. to expend funds ^{for debriefing of cover associate of int. to SR Div.} (ew)

Funds for use of safe house approx. 14 days. Chargeable to Project

DOA

7/11/62 Memo: Request for Handwriting Analysis

7/12/62 Telememo [B. K. Stewart] Pittsburgh, to E. USSR (Moscow), att.
data recorded on Sov. personalities

7/16/62 Personal History Statement of Webster

7/18/62 Memo, [Tos. & Marca] Chief TS & GARB to Chief DO/P/SC; RE:
Handwriting Analysis as per req. of 7/11/62

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Robert E. Webster

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7/24/64 MFR, ^{by Howard J. Stark,} RE: Assessment of R.W. in area of plastics

7/24/62 Interview Report by Dr [Chas. A. Bohner] 10pp.; RE:

Background info. of N; ^{in 1960} as to his stay in S. U. S. not to U.S.

?'s: Is this man Sov. controlled? Highly unlikely.

If not, could he become so? Possibly, if things don't go well in future & he is offered suitable financial reward.

Undated MFR of 7/19/62 Debriefing of R.E.W. by [Ted Bennett] CA/PROP/08;

RE: Views on Sov. attitudes W/alt additional notes

8/1/62 MFR by [Victor F. Zimin] RE: Areas in interrogation which cast a shadow on W's bona fides.

8/27/62 Memo, Geo. Stone, IN/CR to [Eleanor Reed] RE: appraisal of data.

8/30/62 Memo, [S. Duncan] SR/CI/les to SR/6/support; RE: Photo Ident.

11/1/62 Memo, [Virgil L. Harris] Clif, SR/6 RE: Debriefing of R.E.W. 7/16-17/62

I. Outline of life story of R.E.W. - complete chron.

II. Basic info. on Sov. Realities 1959-62: TV, news, mail, medical treatment, etc., ^{sociological & re. conditions, prices,}

III. Basic info. on Sov. Personalities known to N-1959-62

IV. Assessment of R.E.W.

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Vol. III 3rd Agency docs.

2 SD telegrams - 5/4/62 and 3/27/62

5 FBI reports 3/6/62 - 5/24/62

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R. E. Webster

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Vol. IV

4/16/63 Memo, Balaban to Chief, PRB; re: Debriefing of R. E. Webster

✓ 1. Subj. debriefed by undersigned together w/ 100/Contact Div. &
AF reps. in Pittsburgh during 7/23/62.

Balaban = Rudy Valentino

undersigned = [Keller Stewart] }
= Robert Starling } 100 Office, Pittsburgh
[Jack Yague] }
= Major E. J. Zentz }
= Mr. F. G. Jaycock } at Foreign Sec. Div., Wright-Patterson
AFB, Ohio

Recommended that subj. be brought to D.C. for detailed debriefing.

Arrangements for 2nd debriefing made by OS

Subj. stayed at Marriott Hotel, Key Barge, during 7/15-28/62.

Enclosure A: List of staff personnel who participated in debriefing.

" B: Rotations made by Balaban during various phases of debriefing

" C: Secrecy agreement, dated 7/16/62, signed by Subj.

" D: " " " i. stmt. of truthfulness, signed by Subj.

" E: short diag. on Subj.

Refs. to Oswald

5/11/64 Memo, Angleton to Dir., FBI re LHO

- Attached copy of names, addresses & places #'s re S.U. - re address

Kondrat'yevskiy in telegram of Lev Prizontsev is same or similar to H's address
here.

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12/5/66 MFR, from [T. Bender] re "Am. Defectors to USSR" w/ attached circ. to W.

3/16/78

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R. E. Webster

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5/10/67 Memo, [B. Kellar Stewart] Jr. (Chief, Pitts Office) to Asst. DCS, RE: LSW

- We've had no contact w/w since 1/63 when we completed handling of him
under Case 38,246.

Vol. IV - 3rd agency materials

4 FBI Reports 10/22/64 - 2/13/64

INS bio sheet - 1969

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RE.W.

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Defection:

How aided by Sovs? Popov & Shukin - high govt. officials (KGB)

How aided in obtaining employment?

Any contact w/ Sov. intell.? After attempts to return to U.S.? After ret. to US:
(3160)
contacts at Sov. Emb. in Moscow

- SA

- CTA

PRQ- Pt. I - why; when (1st deb.)?

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Debriefing

Did debriefing indicate any desire by Agency to kill him

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